Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-235 *6 December 1990*

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Cuba

Panel Discusses U.S. Role in Gulf Resolution

FL0512154090 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Panel discussion on the UN Security Council Resolution sanctioning the use of force against Iraq, hosted by Irma (not further identified) with guests Rolando Lopez del Amo, director of the International Organizations Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, and reporter Angel Pino—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Irma] So perhaps within this context, we can think about or analyze—to make it a little clearer, a little broader—Cuba's vote against this resolution permitting the use of force in the Middle East after 15 January. For the United States, this is not a consistent vote by Cuba. Rather, they have placed it in the context of bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States. What is your interpretation of this U.S. statement?

[Pino] I think that, in the first place, it responds to the U.S. President's aim to link this vote by Cuba with, or put it in the context of, our bilateral differences. In the first place, it must be said that Cuba has played one of the most active roles during the whole debate that has taken place in the Security Council about the Middle East crisis from the time it started on 2 August.

Of course, we would have to give a little background on the U.S. position, how it escalated, and how this whole crisis was handled from the beginning. From the start, when the invasion occurred, when Iraq invaded Kuwait and occupied it, the United States deployed its whole propaganda machinery immediately. Within minutes they called a meeting of the Security Council, and the next day an extraordinary war-mongering hysteria was created in the press, and right away....

[Irma, interrupting] You were in the United States at that time?

[Pino] Yes, of course. A full-fledged hysteria was created about the start of what is today the so-called Persian Gulf crisis, and military preparations began immediately. From the start, these military preparations were based on the need, or the alleged need, to protect Saudi Arabia, one of the United States's major allies and holder of the largest oil reserves in the world—this was based on a totally defensive strategy. Of course, this immediately received truly massive support from the American people, given the need, or the alleged need, to send troops to Saudi Arabia immediately to protect its independence and integrity, and above all, obviously, the oil reserves of one of the major U.S. allies in the region.

What happened, however? As the United States began to increase its military mobilization, mobilize the reserves, and move all its war machinery to the region, it became more obvious that this was no longer a matter of safeguarding Saudi Arabia, one of their major allies, from an alleged invasion, but that there were strategic objectives that went way beyond that. That public support—that almost complete support—that reached almost 78 percent or 80 percent at its peak, according to surveys taken at the time, began to crack as people, public opinion, began to appreciate the true risks of a war. As all this war machinery increased....

[Irma, interrupting] Yes, a war can start, but no one knows how it would end for the United States, either, because the United States would also pay the consequences of a war.

[Pino] Of course, and it was already obvious that defending Saudi Arabia did not require this extraordinary mobilization of forces. It must be kept in mind that the United States has moved to the region the greatest arsenal of weapons since World War II, and a number of troops comparable only, really, to the greatest number of troops they sent abroad during the Vietnam war.

[Lopez] Pardon me, Pino, but I would like to add something to what we are looking at now, what Irma asked about, concerning Cuba's vote, whether it was an anti-U.S. vote or whether it was because of the level of relations between Cuba and the United States that we voted against this resolution. No. That is not the first resolution that has been voted on in the Council since the crisis began in August. We have voted in favor of all the resolutions of principle; that is, all the ones that supported Kuwait's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and were against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

We supported those. We have, however, selectively opposed those that authorized the use of force by troops that were in the gulf. We have opposed them when they attempted to include medicines and food in the embargo, because international humanitarian law excludes them, because this—as was well said by our Foreign Minister [Isidoro] Malmierca in his speech at the United Nations—turns children, women, old people, etc., into hostages. So this is not the first time we have voted against some of the resolutions presented in the Council about this conflict in the gulf.

We have even greater reason with this one, however. Why? Because this one, in its "resolve" clauses, especially number two, ceded UN authority to decide when to use force, and put it into the hands of the United States, without mentioning them by name. It said: The forces that support the Kuwaiti Government, etc. So it was no longer the Security Council that would make the decision about whether force should be used or not, in expanding the sanctions provided for in the UN Charter—where the use of force also is provided for—but rather it left it up to the United States, which has the major contingent of troops there. So there was no way we could accept it, because it is a violation of the spirit of the Charter, the principles of the Charter.

Moreover, it does not leave any room for negotiation. It gives no leeway to the UN secretary general, who on other occasions has been able to play a useful mediating, negotiating role. Now it excludes that role, leaving to the U.S. President the ability, in practice, to decide on war or peace. Negotiations also depend on the U.S. President and not on the United Nations. That is why we could never vote for this resolution, which takes away from the international community as a whole, and the organization that represents it, the ability to decide about something as important as war and peace.

[Pino] Let me add an idea. When did U.S. diplomacy begin to push this resolution? Only a few days after an electoral defeat of the Republican candidates in legislative elections, at a time when the U.S. President's popularity had dropped to unprecedented levels—that is, from 70-something percent to almost 50 percent—and at a time when the American people were most concerned about war, the United States launched an extraordinary diplomatic campaign.

The U.S. President met with the main Western leaders in Europe, went to the Middle East [words indistinct] Thanksgiving dinner with the American soldiers to infuse them with confidence and determination. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Baker began to tour the foreign ministries of the countries that are members of the Security Council to promote this resolution. They sought on the international level the necessary support they had begun to lose at home, in order to use it indirectly as a justification to increase this support....

[Irma, interrupting] Domestic public opinion.

[Pino] This support they were losing domestically, obviously because of the dangers that were already appearing. That is, everyone could already see the conflict approaching.

[Lopez] In addition, in Congress they held sessions in which different representatives and senators were talking against this. President Carter also made a statement, I understand.

[Pino] Still, still....

[Irma, interrupting] What changed this public opinion? After the vote in the United Nations, this correlation changed.

[Pino] Of course. Even, look, we were talking about the American people, but even within Congress there was this concern. There was this concern because Congress was not in session. That is, the U.S. Congress has recessed until the beginning of the year, and many congressional leaders, including some Republicans, were afraid that the President would take advantage of this circumstance to launch an attack, or start a war against Iraq without the need of convoking, or without the need to consult with, Congress.

This was really very obvious, it was obvious that they needed to do something immediately, something that would have an impact on domestic public opinion, by seeking a reaction to revive this initial support that was manipulated by the U.S. Government itself, starting with an alleged defensive participation, now with a clearly offensive military operation.

[Irma] We have touched on different positions, those of Cuba and the United States within the Security Council, and how they developed, but there were others, such as the participation of the PRC, Yemen, and other countries. It would be good to touch on some of these.

[Lopez] I would say, Irma, that before this draft resolution was presented, Colombia, with the support of Malaysia, Yemen, and Cuba, had been working on a draft resolution, or rather than a draft resolution, a document that could be the basis of a peaceful solution, a negotiated solution to the conflict, to prevent a war from breaking out. These countries had been working on this before, but the United States, which held the chair of the Security Council during November, imposed as a priority the debate on their own draft resolution.

In fact, there was a very moderate, very simple resolution of a humanitarian nature that these four countries had presented about the Palestinian situation, the massacre of the Palestinians by the Zionist army, about sending an investigating mission to Palestine, which Israel—a strategic ally of the United States in the region—rejected, of course. U.S. Ambassador Pickering, the Security Council chairman, did everything possible to prevent the inclusion of this point in the month's discussions. He really violated all the procedures, all the working rules of the Security Council, and did not want it to be discussed.

Nevertheless, they forced the discussed of their draft. Now, it is obvious from the votes that reflected it, that Yemen, which was the only Arab country there—and really we can consider it the representative of the Arab world—would oppose this draft resolution along with Cuba. The PRC, although it is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, did not support this draft.

So the PRC's abstention is very important, because we know that the PRC Government position has always been in favor of a peaceful solution to the conflict. Therefore, in this case, they did not give their support to the draft resolution which leaves the road to war open. It is simply a countdown to 15 January to see at what time the United States will decide to start the war [words indistinct].

[Irma] It must not have been easy for Yemen to make this decision to vote against the resolution. The road must not have been easy.

[Pino] Look, really, if something should be stressed about this debate that occurred in the Security Council about this crisis, it would be not just Cuba's position but Yemen's, as an Arab representative, as a poor country, an underdeveloped country, a country that has been

subjected to any amount of pressures, of offers, during this diplomatic campaign launched by the United States.

The secretary of state went to the capital of Yemen to talk with the Yemeni authorities and offered—and this is public knowledge—a large amount of aid in addition to the aid some of their allies had offered in this so-called alliance against Iraq. Even so, the Government of Yemen adopted and stuck to the upright position it had held to since the start of the crisis, a very clear position for an Arab solution to the conflict, against the use of force in the search for a solution, and for a peaceful solution.

[Irma] In addition to the pressures it also receives from very close by, from Saudi Arabia, traditionally the major strategic U.S. ally, and after the reunification of the two Yemens, the Yemenis have also suffered from Saudi pressure, the expulsion of tens or hundreds of thousands of Yemeni citizens. So it is quite a complex situation, and although in general all the Arab countries agree on Kuwait's right to autonomy and independence, all their positions do not agree on support for the U.S. presence in the area. So this is really....

[Lopez, interrupting] Of course, there is one very important thing. No one can be in favor of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. This must be condemned; it is also unacceptable. We must respect the right of all nations to independence, sovereignty, and self-determination. We are in favor of all this being restored, but we want to achieve this without going through the expedient of war. We would like to achieve it through negotiations. Life has shown that negotiations can resolve very complex problems.

Namibian independence, which spent 15 years shut in a drawer, was resolved through complex negotiations in which Cuba participated. On the other side was South Africa—how much separates us from South Africa? We are at opposite poles. Nevertheless, we were capable of having the patience and determination needed to negotiate effectively. This was done, however, under the aegis of the United Nations, and it was a success.

The only time the United Nations used force to try to resolve a conflict was in the Korean war. After three years of war and great destruction, what was the result? An armistice that left the country divided in two, and the American troops are still there in South Korea.

[Irma] The consequences.

[Lopez] All the consequences, and the problem was not solved. So we think that the path of negotiations must be stressed. That is why since the start, Comrade Castro sent messages to all the Arab heads of state, the president of the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations, and he recently sent [Jose Ramon] Fernandez, a vice president of the Council of Ministers, as his personal representative to Iraq. In these efforts...[rephrases] and we are going to continue to work, because we think we must continue to fight for peace.

This is nothing new. During the war between Iran and Iraq, we also took a very firm, strong position in favor of negotiations. I think Foreign Minister Malmierca visited each capital no less than 15 times. This is what we have done with each of the conflicts between nonaligned countries.

[Irma] Within a few minutes we will have to conclude, but we would have to take a look at the position of the USSR, which voted in favor of this resolution, and naturally to be consistent supports the U.S. position. Within this [words indistinct] a phase from now to January is positive in the search for a negotiated peace? Please be brief because we are in [words indistinct].

[Pino] Really, if one looks at it superficially, it might seem logical from one point of view, but I think—and this is my personal opinion—that we have gained some space but in fact a deadline has been set for the start of the war, and this is exactly what we are talking about; that is, preventing, eliminating any possibility of a military conflict breaking out in that disturbed region.

[Irma] So it is a deadline; that is....

[Pino, interrupting] A deadline for war has been set.

[Irma] Negotiating, that Iraq was willing to negotiate, but it is negotiating under the pressure of knowing that war could break out on 15 January. Well, the time for this program has ended, but I detect from your words that Cuba will continue to work [words indistinct] in search of a solution.

[Lopez] [Words indistinct] continue to work in favor of peace [words indistinct] Cuba to struggle for peace.

[Irma] Well, thank you both for coming here tonight and also to you viewers for being with us during this special program.

WPC Official Decries U.S. Position on Iraq

FL0512020490 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Interview with (Orlando Funtora), executive secretary of the World Peace Council (WPC) Center for Latin America; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [(Funtora)] The agreement reached by the Security Council is unprecedented; it is a complete paradox. The United Nations was created practically from the ashes of World War II as an effort by humanity precisely to prevent war. It is an organization whose purpose of existence is to preserve peace, and we have seen how the United States, the U.S. Government, has achieved an agreement that is a declaration of war. It managed to cover up its unilateral measures with the mantle of the United Nations, and has dragged a number of its closest allies along with it.

[Reporter] Is what the United States now has in hand a kind of letter of marque?

[(Funtora)] Exactly. I believe it is a letter of marque, a permit that allows the U.S. Government to continue its policy that it has pursued from the outset of this conflict. It never sought negotiation. It sought only mobilizations, ships, and aircraft carriers. That is the U.S. language.

I believe that Bush's statement is designed, first of all, to soften the impact that undoubtedly has been, and will continue to be felt as a result of Cuba's position of principle, an impact primarily on the Third World countries and on world public opinion.

Commentary Examines Bush Latin America Tour

FL0412185490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush is touring Latin America. The tour, which began in Brazil, will continue to Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Venezuela. Its goal is to promote the Initiative of the Americas launched by the President himself on 27 June. Actually, what Bush is doing is known in modern terms as large-scale marketing [preceding word in English] or selling.

For many Latin American heads of state, the person who lives in the White House would somewhat resemble a Santa Claus with his bags filled with promises. The initiative is based on the principle of broadening trade, promoting investment, and pardoning part of the official debt the governments of the region have with Washington to boost the Latin American countries' growth. These are very beautiful words and edifying ideas on paper and within its intentions.

There are already differences among the more developed countries in North America and its neighbors to the south. Canada is already showing defensive attitudes regarding Mexico, which has been used as a clear example of what the United States wants to promote in the Latin American community, in the free trade agreement exploratory talks. Bush's initiative regarding Mexico has not enthused the Canadians, who after suffering some negative consequences of the free trade agreement with the United States, fear that the expansion to the south lead to a laoss of thousands of jobs because of the low labor costs in our countries.

Bush's tour takes place at the time the Uruguay round of the GATT is being held in Brussels. The skeptics note that the trip could be a contingency, a form of life insurance, in case negotiations in Belgium on trade and tariffs fail and, consequently, trade blocs emerge in the world.

Soviet Officials Emphasize Continued Support

FL0412162590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Report on a news conference given by special representatives of the Soviet leadership, Valeriy Nikolayenko and Georgiy Mamedov, at the USSR Embassy in Havana by Ismael Tantau; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tantau] Valeriy Nikolayenko, chief of the Latin America Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told the national and foreign press accredited in our country that the USSR will maintain its support to Cuba. He stressed:

[Nikolayenko] The main matter of our consultation was a meeting with Comrade Fidel during which we conveyed the best of greetings from the Soviet leadership, especially from Comrade Gorbachev. Gorbachev sent him a greetings message saying said the Soviet Union is and will continue to support Cuba, and that despite our country's economic difficulties we will continue to cooperate with the Cuban people.

[Tantau] Georgiy Mamedov, chief of the United States and Canada Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, and Ambassador Yuriy Petrov also responded to questions posed by reporters who focused on the current international situation and Cuban-Soviet trade. Explaining this latter matter, Petrov recalled:

[Petrov, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] Regarding this year, the Soviet Union is making the best efforts to fulfill its commitments. Unfortunately, we have to acknowledge that the lack of fulfillment of our commitments will be greater than usual this year. Regarding last year's concrete agreements, the problem will be solved in the next few days.

Where will the economic difficulties felt specifically? We will surely know about this in the near future.

Castro, Iranian Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD0512120290 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec 5, IRNA—Cuban leader Fidel Castro voiced his country's eagerness to promote Tehran-Havana ties in a meeting with the visiting Iranian health minister Dr. Iraj Fazel on Tuesday.

During the two-hour meeting, the two sides discussed medical cooperation between the two countries.

Dr Fazel heading a delegation left here for Havana last Saturday on an official visit at the invitation of his Cuban counterpart.

Court Sets Nine-Year Term for Economic Crime

FL0412134090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The Provincial People's Tribunal in Havana has sentenced Luis Gonzalez Cartas to nine years' imprisonment for currency trafficking and illegal economic activities. These crimes are incompatible with the socialist society. Testimony and document evidence were presented during the oral and public hearing which proved the guilt of Gonzalez Cartas.

In addition to an impressive amount of goods obtained from dirty business with corrupt elements and foreigners, 145,011 pesos and $5,100 were seized from the defendant known as Luisito (Jangle). This person was detained as part of the actions of joint Interior Ministry forces against a group of known criminals involved in activities such as robbery, speculation, embezzlement, trafficking of currency and works of art, bribery, and other crimes.

Central Army Reduces Fuel Quotas by 50 Percent

FL0612025590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Report by Josefa Bussi Rodriguez on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The Central Army has reduced the fuel quota assigned to all its units by 50 percent. This has meant using only what is truly necessary. There are examples: Military unit 29-46, after the reduction, managed to consume only 51 percent of its assigned fuel for the July-September quarter. I asked Lieutenant Colonel Fausto Castellano of that unit's headquarters whether this reduction in gasoline meant that things were left undone. His reply was convincing.

[Begin Castellano recording] No, no, no. Things have not been left undone. What this does is force us to be efficient in complying with the tasks for which the fuel was assigned, and to work on what is (?absolutely necessary). Therefore, when one puts his mind on what has to be done...[changes thought] The fuel that we were given is enough to ensure fulfillment of our mission, but not for superfluous activities. The unit's principal activities have been carried out. [end recording]

Many initiatives have been suggested in this unit to save fuel. One example is the rustic wooden stove that is being used that has saved over 1,000 liters of oil in just three months. That is very significant.

Dominican Republic

Trial Against Jorge Blanco To Resume 22 Jan

FL0612124590 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The trial against former President Salvador Jorge Blanco and General Manuel Antonio Cuervo Gomez, retired, has been postponed for 22 January 1991. Judge Juan Maria Severino rescheduled the hearing so that the Public Ministry representative can study the thick file. Deputy prosecutor Andres Nunez Menendez got involved in the trial for the first time. He requested the delay on the basis that he did not have full knowledge of the charges against former President Salvador Jorge Blanco and General Cuervo Gomez, retired. In rescheduling the proceedings for 22 January, he summoned the defendants and the rest people involved in the trial for that day.

Labor Secretary Notes 200,000 Fired After Strike

FL0412170990 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The secretary of labor has revealed that more than 200,000 workers have been fired from their jobs after the general strike. Dr. Washington de Pena also blamed those who called the strike for this situation. He recalled that he had warned many times that massive firings would occur after the strike, but no one paid any attention to him. The secretary of labor stated that the number of those fired is not greater at this time because in some cases the rulings have gone against the employers requesting the firings.

Taiwan Creates Fund for Industrial Development

FL0412170090 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The Dominican Republic will have access to the $100-million fund created by the Government of the Republic of China. In announcing this information, (Carlos Cepechen),the commercial attache of the Chinese Embassy in the Dominican Republic, added that this fund is intended to encourage industrial development programs in friendly countries. The official also announced that Taiwan will make substantial imports of Dominican canned products such as coconut, coffee, and hides [as heard], resulting in several million dollars for the country's treasury, industry, and agriculture.

Haiti

'Optimistic' CEP Provides Election Update

FL0512191590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] remains optimistic as the elections draw near. All voting material has been sent to the provinces. Everything will be ready for 16 December, CEP spokesman Marc-Antoine Noel stated with confidence. Relating to the appeal against the CEP, Noel explained that the Court of Appeal, with a representative posted inside the CEP, has found nothing to indicate that the CEP is unconstitutional. Marc-Antoine Noel answers Nancy Roc's questions.

[Begin recording] [Roc] Just 11 days before the elections, CEP official, Marc-Antoine Noel, does not hide his optimism about the upcoming fated date, 16 December. Most of the ballots have already been sent to their final destinations, and all the necessary materials should be in place by 14 December, 48 hours before the balloting.

Aside from financial problems, which should be solved by the government within the week, everything is going well. As of yesterday, 2,500,000 names were entered into the computers, out of more than 3,271,000 officially registered. How do you explain such a difference?

[Noel] [Passage omitted] We have left until last the departmental electoral bureaus with problems, those where people do not quite understand how to register, or how to classify the numbers. We have volunteers providing temporary assistance in correcting and reclassifying the numbers in these bureaus.

[Roc] Marc-Antoine Noel cites 7 December as the final date for cards to be entered in the computers. [passage omitted] Marc-Antoine Noel feels certain that fraud accusations will be avoided on 16 December, because the ink that will be used is indelible this time, unlike that used for the ballot in 1987. He also points out that authorized party representatives will be present at the polling places to assure the credibility and transparency of the ballot. [passage omitted]

Marc-Antoine Noel expresses optimism about the security of the electoral process. Much has been done to assure this, regardless of occasional threats. There will always be threats. Some persons foolishly think that by creating sporadic problems, they can prevent the elections from taking place. The electoral law, which evolved out of the 1987 experience, provides that in the event of a serious problem in some part of the country, elections will be held later, but only in that area. The general elections will definitely be held on 16 December. Marc-Antoine Noel was very firm on this subject. It is out of the question for the date to be postponed.

With regard to the Manigat case, which according to some people might delay the election date, Marc-Antoine Noel explained that the Court of Appeal has a representative inside the CEP, and that it would be rather peculiar for the CEP to be declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeal. Garry Victor and Marc-Antoine Noel also confirmed that, according to electoral law, the results of the electoral surveys can be published 14 December at midnight. [end recording]

Survey Indicates Aristide Leads Election Race

FL0412202590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 3 Dec 90

[All numbers as heard]

[Excerpts] The countdown has begun for the next elections in Haiti. We are less than two weeks before voting and the main candidates are intensifying their election trips. Radio Metropole organized a survey in collaboration with the Logos Company [as heard] last week. [passage omitted]

[Begin reporter Clarens recording] A survey conducted by Radio Metropole last week in the metropolitan area shows that four out of five people of the 1,200 surveyed have already made a firm choice for the president of the Republic in the upcoming elections. One out of ten surveyed, and who intend to vote, does not have his electoral card. These are the results of a survey conducted by Radio Metropole and compiled by the Logos Company which specializes in the mechanics and methods of researching and surveying. Between 27 and 29 November, with the help of a questionnaire, 1,208 people were surveyed in 36 different areas and quarters of the metropolitan area. [passage omitted]

The following figures are the results of the survey and show the current choice of the metropolitan area—Delmas, Petionville, and Carrefour—for the next president:

58 percent for Jean-Bertrand Aristide;
13 percent for Marc Bazin;
5 percent for Sylvio Claude;
4 percent for Thomas Desulme;
3 percent for Louis Dejoie;
3 percent for Hubert de Ronceray;
1 percent split between the remaining candidates.
[passage omitted] [end recording]

FNCD Denies Charges of Disruptive Behavior

FL0512154090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] denies accusations that its supporters have tried several times to disrupt electoral meetings held by the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP]. The FNCD is nevertheless calling for tolerance.

Evans Paul, candidate for mayor and member of the FNCD, explains that Aristide's supporters sometimes react emotionally when another candidate tries to denigrate the priest-candidate. FNCD also asks the population to keep alert and to remain mobilized in order to face possible attempts by the Court of Appeal to block the electoral process.

[Begin Paul recording] Two points need to be addressed as they relate to accusations that FNCD members have been disrupting the campaigns of the other candidates. So far, we have received no specific information about FNCD supporters disturbing, with violence or with noise, meetings of another political party. Second, would those who do such a thing be protecting FNCD interests? Would they be sent by the FNCD? The FNCD, being in a privileged position in the electoral struggle, has no reason to promote an attitude in its members that would jeopardize its standing.

We also believe that the Aristide phenomenon inspires people to react in an extreme manner. This passionate behavior is being called the Aristide craziness. The people consider him a redeemer, and behave accordingly. They have idealized him and refuse to hear anything negative about him. Whenever there is some demeaning reference to Aristide in a meeting, the people react. We could call this response democratic. It is true that the people have sent out slogans, but no violence has been recorded. There have been no reports about people being injured or property being destroyed.

Regarding the distribution of pictures during the meetings of other parties, it is necessary to point out that in

Saint-Marc on 28 December, during an FNCD rally, ANDP members passed out ANDP flags. We reacted graciously; we accepted the flags. We found this to be a bit polemical, but did not feel that any harm was done. [passage omitted]

We are nevertheless calling upon our supporters and the general population to behave calmly during the election campaign, because up until now, everything has been going smoothly, not only among the people, but with the Army as well, which this time indicates a genuine willingness to ensure security for the elections. [end recording]

FNCD Groups Join Against Election Violence

FL0412203590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[News conference held by organizations supporting the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] at the Table Ronde Restaurant in Port-au-Prince on 3 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] The coordination committee of the FNCD, popularly known as the Avalanche Organization, composed of the Autonomous Haitian Workers Central [CATH], ORNADEJ, ANOS, ASOC, KJPA [acronyms as heard, expansions unknown], and the Marcel Numa Revolutionary Committee, met with the press on the morning of 3 December to consider the volatile political situation of the country, and to address the people's attitudes. Emmanuel Laurent of ORNADEJ spoke out against groups of people, or groups of partisans, attacking candidates or other partisans while they are campaigning.

[Begin Laurent recording] We ask all people, including those partisans and candidates belonging to the Avalanche, or to other alliances, to calm down and try to avoid bloodshed among rival groups. Violence jeopardizes everything we are trying to achieve.

If a candidate is holding a meeting and you are not in favor of this candidate, it is better not to attend, but if you do, you should listen and not create a scene. [passage omitted] When a candidate is campaigning, whether you agree with him or not, avoid hostility so that the elections can take place on 16 December, without bloodshed. Whether the provocateurs are members of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, or the Avalanche, whenever there is a confrontation, the victims will always be from among the people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PDCH Leader Claude Campaigns in Saint-Marc

FL0412160390 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Saint-Marc]

[Text] On Saturday, 1 December, at around 1800, several supporters of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] welcomed presidential candidate Silvio Claude to Boulevard de la Liberte, where a stand was built for the meeting. An evangelical choir greeted the leader with a welcome song, followed by a speech by pastor Charles Zacarri-Pierre in which he expressed willingness to join the PDCH in fighting against discrimination and injustice. He said that he believes God will help the PDCH. Liberus Silvera, the party's candidate for deputy, then introduced Silvio Claude.

Claude thanked the population of Saint-Marc for being civilized people in spite of the fact that he knew several supporters of Aristide were attending. Electricity was cut off immediately following this statement. The leader left without another word and faced threats from those arriving to attend the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Communal Electoral Bureaus [BEC's] in Saint-Marc published the final list of cartels for mayor, and for Communal Section Administration Council [Casec] candidates eligible to participate in the 1990 elections. Two cartels were not approved for Casec. All three cartels for mayor were approved for participation.

De Ronceray Continues Campaign in Port-de-Paix

FL0412145590 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Port-de-Paix]

[Excerpts] Hubert de Ronceray, presidential candidate for Mobilization for National Development [MDN], arrived in Port-de-Paix on Saturday afternoon, 1 December, in heavy rain. The rain prevented the leader from holding his popular meeting.

On Sunday, 2 December—with dozens of people in attendance—Hubert de Ronceray inaugurated the new MDN Port-de-Paix office located in La Coube, one and a half km from Port-de-Paix. Several MDN supporters accompanied the leader during the inauguration. The presence of candidates for deputy and mayor was observed.

Leader de Ronceray said he felt ashamed to arrive in Port-de-Paix under such conditions. Once he becomes president, however, he will return to an asphalted city. He said he thinks that Haiti has a path to follow, and he has the guide map. [passage omitted]

Because so much rain was falling, the leader had to leave early and take the Jean-Rabel Road. Discovering that the road was bad, the leader then had to backtrack to Gonaives, to continue from there to Jean-Rabel in the northwest region.

MIDH Leader Bazin Campaigns in Jeremie

FL0412140590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Report by correspondent Jean-Elder Almeus in Jeremie—recorded]

[Excerpts] Marc Louis Bazin, leader of the Movement for Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], arrived in Jeremie by plane on 1 December at 0800 for a campaign visit. The candidate toured the city with his partisans and then attended a reception at Rochas. [passage omitted]

After a tour of the Moron area, Bazin held a meeting at 1500 on Dumas Square before hundreds of people. The leader said that he is the solution for the country. He described his political stance: He does not come to burn the people; he comes to build them up.

He said that leading a country is not a child's game, and he asked his partisans not to hurl stones at other people. Bazin concluded by saying that he is the right man at this time, asking the people to be patient, and assuring them that within 15 days he will solve all their problems.

At 1605, Bazin headed for the airport to return to the capital.

Two Dead, Four Detained in Shooting Incident

FL0512173890 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Two dead, four detained, weapons and drugs seized was the result of a shooting involving five Dominicans and a Haitian police patrol. The incident took place in (Chote), 45 km from the border inside Haitian territory. The dead are police Sargent (Johnny Patrie), who was shot and hit four times, and Dominican citizen Hector Solis, 34. The Dominicans arrested as a result of this incident are: Eladio Veras, Francisco Javier Castillo, Ernesto de los Santos, and Ignacio Polanco.

Two .45-caliber pistols, an M-16 rifle, and two kg of cocaine were seized from them. (Bidet Jacques), a (Chote) police officer, reported that the Dominicans will be taken before the authorities in Port-au-Prince. He also said (Chote) Municipality in Haiti, 45 km of Pedernales, is frequently the scene of shootings in which involving Dominicans and Colombians.

Salinas Conveys Support to Argentina's Menem

PA0412141590 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1310 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text of "message" from President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem; date not given—recorded]

[Text] In consideration of the difficulties that Argentina has experienced because of the military disturbances, I would like to express the firm support of the Mexican people and Government for your calm and patriotic determination to preserve social peace and the integrity of the democratic institutions of the Republic over which you honorably preside.

Chamber of Deputies Objects to Force in Gulf

PA0512015790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2247 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The entire Chamber of Deputies condemned today the use of force and threats to solve the Persian Gulf conflict and said that the United Nations must struggle to preserve peace, not war.

Based on a proposal submitted by PAN [National Action Party] Deputy Alberto Ling Altamirano, representatives of six paliamentarian blocs agreed that Mexico must assume a policy of active neutrality to ensure that there is peace after 15 January 1991.

That is the deadline established by the UN Security Council for Iraqi troops to leave Kuwait before armed actions are carried out against Iraq.

The Mexican deputies agreed to make their agreement known to the Foreign Relations Secretariat to ensure that government actions are in keeping with this agreement.

In their agreement, the political parties condemned granting authorization to a country to use force and added that, in any case, the leader of any action of this sort should be the United Nations.

They agreed that "Mexican petroleum must be used to ease the effects of the burden on poor countries and not only as strategic reserve of powerful countries."

"We condemn the invasion of one country by another anywhere in the world, and because of this, the Iraq-Kuwait conflict must be carefully assessed.

PJF Officers 'Mistakenly' Kill Six Citizens

PA0412030190 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0029 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 3 December (NOTIMEX)—Members of the Federal Judicial Police (PJF) gunned down eight persons, who they mistakenly thought to be drug traffickers, causing the six deaths, the authorities confirmed today.

Ricardo Chacon Ruiz, state delegate for the attorney general, said that the incident occurred on 2 December in Protomartir Township, about 200 km north of this capital.

He said "it was all a matter of regretiable confusion, because federal agents of the capital and Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, were expecting an important drug shipment to pass through there." It is not known if drugs were ever seized.

Juan Munguia Valdes, PJF agent in Guasave, Sinaloa, confirmed that Jacinto Cardenas Mendez and his sons Jaime and Jose Luis Cardenas Torres, 16 and 18 years of age, were killed.

Also, brothers Antonio Guadalupe and Abelardo Ramirez, 8 and 10 years old, and Manuel de Jesus Valenzuela Acosta were also killed.

In the same place Leonardo Garcia Sauceda and his 10-year-old brother Claudio were wounded and were admitted to a hospital in Guasave.

A relative of the persons killed—who did not want to be identified and who escaped injury in the shoot-out—said that they were coming from a dance in the township of El Muerto, Angostura Municipality, in Sinaloa.

He said that when they were returning to Culiacan, the members of the PJF opened fire without ordering them to halt. They were traveling in four vehicles, which were hit by AK-47 fire.

Costa Rica

Surveillance Increased Near Panamanian Border

PA0512173990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1441 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Paso Canoas (Costa Rica) 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Border Guard has increased surveillance at the Panamanian border in view of the police rebellion headed by retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera after his escape from jail, to which he was confined since October.

Herrera and at least 100 rebel policemen occupied the police headquarters in Panama City, which is currently surrounded by U.S. Southern Command troops.

Costa Rican police spokesmen at the border confirmed to ACAN-EFE that the situation is "normal" and the traffic of vehicles and people between the two countries has not been interrupted.

The police were instructed, however, to remain "alert" to any possible eventuality, according to a police spokesman who asked not to be identified.

Meanwhile, Leticia Herrera, immigration chief at the Costa Rican border post in Paso Canoas, told ACAN-EFE that even though the situation remains calm, an increase in the number of policemen on the Panamanian side of the border is noticeable.

Civil Guard commanders in the southern region in charge of protecting the border are touring the various police posts in that sector.

El Salvador

Ponce on FMLN Downing of AC-47 Plane

PA0512222390 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce confirmed today that the Air Force AC-47 plane that was downed by the guerrillas in Chalatenango was hit by a surface-to-air missile. Ponce said that six soldiers were aboard the aircraft, including the two pilots:

[Ponce] "The AC-47 plane was [words indistinct] and was hit by a missile launched from (El Patalon) Hill, La Laguna jurisdiction. The missile hit one of its wings and the plane went down. Only one of the technicians aboard the plane, who managed to parachute from the plane, has appeared. As of this moment we know nothing about the rest of the crew, the pilot and four other technicians."

The defense minister questioned the guerrillas' use of missiles and said that this kind of weapon had been given to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS]:

[Ponce] "I believe that in Central America this kind of weapon has only been acquired by the EPS [words indistinct] to the FMLN."

Col. Ponce insisted that the FMLN's actions of the past few hours reflect the lack of faith they have in the negotiating process:

[Ponce] "This shows the lack of willingness and goodwill that they have for the negotiation process. We are seeing an escalation of violence, and this can only be described as another FMLN terrorist offensive against the Salvadoran people."

The AC-47 plane downed on the morning of 4 December in Chalatenango Department is the second aircraft to be hit by surface-to-air missiles in less than 15 days.

FMLN Issues Bulletin on Latest Clashes

PA0612000590 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Bulletin No. 7 issued by the General Staff of the National Army for Democracy of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 4 December—read by announcer]

[Text] Here is a report to the nation and the international community on the recent actions carried out by our forces in the past few hours during our campaign against the antidemocratic army:

1. Antiaircraft artillery units have downed an AC-47 airplane equipped with electronic machine guns in Chalatenango Department. Our forces also report having damaged two UH-IH helicopters in the same department.

2. The operations carried out by our forces in the past few hours in the national territory have inflicted over 70 casualties on the enemy, wounding a lieutenant colonel and several other officers. Two soldiers have been captured along with weapons, ammunition, and war supplies.

3. The 6th Infantry Brigade and the Atonal Battalion Headquarters in Usulutan, as well as the anti-rebel El Roblar Base in Guazapa Hill, were attacked by our forces with artillery fire. Simultanously, other National Army for Democracy forces took over the Tonacatepeque township 15 km north of San Salvador. Our sappers also sabotaged the San Martin substation on the outskirts of San Salvador.

4. Our forces staged an attack against Atonal Battalion troops on the outskirts of Santa Elena and Usulutan, inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy. Weapons were also seized. Other National Army for Democracy forces sabotaged the El Martillo cooking oil processing plant in El Martillo Department.

At the time of this report clashes continue in Chalatenango and on the outskirts of Tonacatepeque in Usulutan, as well as other areas in the country. Our sappers continue carrying out sabotage actions throughout the nation.

5. Since the beginning of our campaign, we have inflicted over 700 casualties on the enemy and destroyed or damaged 12 aircraft in flight, 10 armored personnel carriers, and seven garrisons. We have also seized numerous weapons, ammunition, and significant amounts of war supplies. Among the casualties are a score of officers, including a lieutenant colonel, one captain, pilots, and several lieutenants and second lieutenants.

6. We warn the enemy high command and their troops that we will not halt our attacks at any time or place throughout the national territory as long as they continue to invade our territories, repressing the people in the cities and staging indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population.

The National Army for Democracy will exist as long as the antidemocratic Armed Forces exist.

[Signed] General Staff of the National Army for Democracy 4 December 1990

FMLN Announces 'Limited Unilateral Truce'

PA0612014990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0113 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] San Salvador, 5 Dec (AFP)—The Salvadoran guerrillas' have announced a "limited unilateral truce" that will apply only to the capital during the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays to facilitate family reunions.

For Christmas, the suspension of rebel hostilities will be in effect from 0600 on 24 December to 1800 on 25 December and for the New Year, from 0600 on 31 December to 1800 on 1 January 1991.

In a communique sent to the local media, the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) stated that it is announcing a limited truce, even though "the government Army's High Command has never accepted a truce."

Panama

Cabinet Urged To Declare Nationwide Emergency

PA0612011790 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 1

[From the "As of Today" column]

[Text] Nearly one year after the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] were dismantled, its former members have not yet come to terms with the fact that they lost political power. Eduardo Herrera, a military man who was given weapons and tasked with preserving public order, betrayed those who trusted him by promoting subversion and a coup attempt. Although he failed, Herrera was rewarded with retirement and did not have to pay his just dues and this led to his participation in other coup attempts. Despite being held at an allegedly secure place under adequate security, Herrera managed to escape and immediately led an armed subversive group of not yet identified Public Force members who are perhaps linked to former FDP members. In the face of such serious developments, every person, association, and party must put aside divisive differences and give their firm and decisive support to democratic institutions and the constitutional government that represents them. The people cannot let the country return to a military dictatorship and its inevitable consequences that include crime, corruption, and barbarism. The serious crisis that is disturbing peace and public order demands that the Cabinet Council decree a nationwide state of emergency and suspend the corresponding constitutional rights and guarantees. This would ensure that it will have the necessary judicial tools at its disposal to tackle the difficult situation and defeat the conspiracy.

PTJ Director on Herrera's Arrest

PA0512195290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1640 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Captain Leslie Loaiza by reporter Julio Miller in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Miller] We have Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] Director Leslie Loaiza on the telephone line. He will report on the situation at PTJ headquarters following former Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan's arrest. Go ahead, Captain Loaiza:

[Loaiza] Hello Miller and Channel 4 listeners.

Former Col. Eduardo Herrera Hassan is indeed temporarily under arrest at PTJ headquarters. Steps are being made to take him to one of the country's jails. He is completely calm and his constitutional rights are being respected.

He has said that he voluntarily turned himself in to U.S. troops, who turned him over to Panamanian authorities.

Regarding the situation around the PTJ offices, as is natural, some curious people and reporters have gathered around, but everything is calm. I understand that National Police Director Ebrahim Asvat assumed control of headquaters at Ancon.

That is everything I can tell you right now, Julio.

[Miller] Capt. Loaiza, could you explain how Col. Eduardo Herrera was arrested? Did Panamanian police help, or were only U.S. troops involved?

[Loaiza] At that time, as some media reported, Herrera left the headquarters to go to the Legislative Palace to, as he said, contact Assembly President Alonso Fernandez.

As he was heading toward the Assembly some confusion was created by some nervous people who started running, and some cars knocked down a fence. But he says he met up with his group again and contacted U.S. troops and decided to turn himself in.

[Miller] How many Panamanian forces have been arrested, and is the situation under control by the policemen who support the constitutional order in the country?

[Loaiza] Yes, Julio, we inform the citizens that fortunately, the whole country is calm, that everything is under the control of the Panamanian civilian and democratic authorities, and that the National Police and the PTJ are taking steps to prevent antisocial elements from taking over Panama City in view of intelligence reports regarding such activities.

The police and the PTJ are already in the streets.

[Miller] Capt. Loaiza, are there any other details regarding policemen arrested, and can you confirm that a member of the National Police was wounded this morning?

[Loaiza] Yes, we have unofficially learned that one of the policemen who accompanied Col. Herrera was wounded, but we do not know how it happened. We can confirm, however, that most of those who accompanied Col. Herrera have been arrested and that only very few have escaped.

[Miller] What is the current situation around the PTJ offices, and what is the state of mind of Col. Eduardo Herrera and those arrested with him?

[Loaiza] Col. Herrera and I spoke very briefly. He says he feels tired but calm because there has been no bloodshed. He confirms that he is once again in the hands of Panamanian authorities.

[Miller] Are there any plans for a joint Panamanian-U.S. patrol?

[Loaiza] Regarding Panama City street patrols detailed to prevent looting and any other such activities, only National Police authorities will be involved.

[Miller] Will U.S. troops participate?

[Loaiza] The U.S. troops were just brought in due to the events at the Ancon Garrison, that is all.

[Miller] Captain Loaiza, there have been some doubts regarding Col. Eduardo Herrera's rather spectacular escape from Naos Island. Has there been some security control to prevent this from happening again now that he is at PTJ headquarters?

[Loaiza] Regarding Naos, despite the short time elapsed, the investigations have been advanced regarding what happened there.

The attorney general headed those investigations until morning, but the investigations have not been completed yet. As you know, the helicopter and the pilot are being held by authorities but we cannot release the details because some important data is still missing.

[Miller] What about the security measures to prevent this from happening again?

[Loaiza] At this time we have taken measures at the PTJ, and other measures are being taken to prevent a reoccurence of any such incidents at the location he will be transferred to.

[Miller] Do you have any other details regarding reports that people have been gathering on Central Avenue to promote looting in the area?

[Loaiza] I reiterate that we have received some reports, but the National Police and the PTJ are positioning themselves on Central Avenue and other areas of Panama City. The citizens will be able to notice it, and we are sure that we will be able to prevent any such activities threatening public order.

[Miller] Thank you, Capt. Loaiza. Any final detail to calm the citizens?

[Loaiza] One final detail which we want to stress—and this is true—is that fortunately, for all the Panamanians and foreigners living here, the whole country is completely calm.

[Miller] Thank you, Captain, for your interesting statements to RPC.

Assembly President Condemns Incidents

PA0512202190 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1757 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Report by Carlos Vosman from the Legislative Assembly in Panama City—live telephone relay]

[Text] The National Assembly is convening right now and has issued an appeal to be delivered to the president as a result of the recent incidents: yesterday's march; the strike scheduled for today; Colonel Eduardo Herrera's escape from a maximum security prison on Naos Island yesterday; and today's takeover of the Natinal Police Headquarters in Ancon by Herrera and some of his followers.

Let us listen to the appeal issued by Assembly President Alonso Fernandez:

[Begin Fernandez recording, in progress] ...of the Republic of Panama and Panamanian citizens who have nationalistic feelings and only want a peaceful coexistence for all of us who live in this land.

I want to publicly express my condemnation of the acts that have been carried out in Panama City since yesterday. Our Christian upbringing has taught us that violence generates violence and that differences must be

settled through an open, sincere, and spontaneous dialogue between the parties in conflict.

This is the procedure that must be followed in every civilized society like ours. As president of Panama's honorable National Assembly, I urge those who chose the path of force and violence to meditate about the damage they are causing to all citizens at a time when the fatherland demands the effort of its good children in order to put the nation on the path to recovery and future progress.

I also urge them to put an end to negative and intransigent positions. I urge them to abide by the constitution and the laws to return to the peace and tranquility we all want.

I also urge the executive branch—as one of the branches which make up the Panamanian state—to always take this assembly into consideration in the search for solutions to the problems we inherited, thus preventing frustation from grabbing hold of people who feel they have been cast aside. Such frustration may lead these people to take desperate actions to the detriment of the international image we must preserve as a free, sovereign, and independent nation.

[Signed] Legislator and President Alonso Fernandez Guardia. [end recording]

Opposition to U.S. Troops Viewed

PA0512190790 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 1758 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] It must be reported that a large number of Public Force members who marched with Eduardo Herrera were able to escape the operation carried out by the U.S. Army, which kept the main National Police Headquarters cordoned off. The rebels were put in a U.S. Army truck. Col. Herrera was arrested by U.S. Army members and turned over to the proper authorities. According to unofficial sources, two people were killed and one was wounded.

Meanwhile, tension continued near the Martyrs, Frangipani, and National Avenues after the incidents at the National Police Headquarters. The people, gathering on sidewalks, streets, and balconies, repudiated the presence of U.S. troops who were in Panama one more time. They accused them of using undue violence against civilians. We also saw how many National Police or Public Force members were taking their uniforms off right in the streets. Although they did not wish to speak to reporters and cameramen, we were told that they had submitted their resignations at the Technical Judicial Police Office in Ancon.

Their action, if true, was supported by citizens who accompanied them while they took off their uniforms. The climate of anticipation still continues on the Martyrs Avenue. Some residents of that sector noted that they will not go home until U.S. troops leave.

Looting Attempts Reported

PA0512210890 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1930 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Report by Rigoberto Dumas Castillero]

[Text] We have toured the city's main streets and found many heavily armed security guards, as well as members of the Public Force and the Technical Judicial Police, engaged in guard duties on Central Avenue and Calidonia, especially around the 5th of May Plaza area, where there have been some looting attempts by criminals who are waiting for the slightest chance to commit crimes. The presence of many heavily armed guards and patrolmen, however, is evident.

We also went to the Santa Cruz sector and talked with an officer in charge of the watch there. He said there is much concern, because when an effort was made to capture Colonel Eduardo Herrera and his followers, many of them threw their weapons into the brush in the Curundu and Santa Cruz areas. Some criminals seized these weapons, and police are now looking for them.

Let us listen to the officer in charge of vigilance in that sector:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified officer] They fled and left the weapons in this area, which we are trying to comb now. We have not found any large-caliber weapons. We have found members of the police force who joined us because they felt very confused. They are now cooperating with us and are combing the sector with us.

[Castillero] Then this is very dangerous. There will be many armed men tonight. There are too many weapons in the street.

[Officer] This is what we think. Tonight will be a very difficult night. We have asked residents in the Santa Cruz and Curundu area to keep off the streets in the late evening hours to avoid problems with these criminals. We will try to double our efforts at vigilance here. As you can see, residents are helping. Residents are parents and they do not want problems.

[Castillero] What kind of weapons were left behind?

[Officer] They left T-65 rifles in the area.

[Castillero] Do you have an idea of how many?

[Officer] I cannot tell you because we do not know how many rebels were in the vehicles.

[Castillero] Have you seized any of these weapons?

[Officer] We were only able to seize one, a T-65.

[Castillero] How many weapons were there?

[Officer] There could be about 30 or 40. [end recording]

Dear listeners of RPC radio, we have seen some criminals near the PTJ office who, armed with bats and other

objects, are trying to attack vehicles circulating there. Public Force surveillance, however, has increased.

It was also reported that two Defense Forces [as heard] members were killed, a sergeant and a corporal. Local authorities have not confirmed this yet. In addition, three local journalists were attacked. Domingo Romero of the newspaper CRITICA LIBRE and Daniel Espinoza were hit with rifle butts as they were covering this morning's incidents. It was unofficially disclosed that thieves stole some belongings from LA PRENSA reporter Zoila Rodriguez.

We will continue to report on what is happening in the capital, which is under a tense but somewhat normal climate.

Curfew Imposed on Panama City

PA0512222690 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2125 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Decree 778 issued by Panama City Mayor Guillermo Cochez in Panama City on 5 December—read by reporter Omayra de Leon]

[Text] Decree 778:

On 5 December, an armed group created disorder in the area of Curundu Corregimiento. This group has been carrying out actions and plots to disrupt public order and national integrity and security, although with little success.

When Public Force members tried to restore peace and tranquility in that area, the destabilizing elements fled and left many high-caliber weapons behind in the area of Curundu Corregimiento.

Article 915 of the Administrative Code empowers the police chief to ban people from circulating in the streets under specific circumstances;

Therefore the Panama City Mayorship decrees:

Article 1: As of today [5 December], a curfew from 1800 until 0600 has been instituted in Curundu Corregimiento.

Article 2: By virtue of the curfew, no one will be allowed to circulate on the streets and common areas [areas comunes] of Curundu Corregimiento during the established hours.

Article 3: National Police and Technical Judicial Police members and municipal inspectors are authorized to enforce this decree.

Article 4: Those who violate the decree's provisions will be punished with strict sentences, which cannot be commuted, of between two to 20 days in jail. The sentence will be set by a night court or by the corresponding Police Magistrate.

Article 5: People who have identification cards which identify them as working for a public institution and who justify their presence in the area will be exempted from complying with the decree.

Article 6: This decree will be in effect as of the moment of its signing, and it will be valid until it is abrogated by the appropriate authority.

Be it promulgated and executed

[Signed] Panama City Mayor Guillermo Cochez
Mayorship Secretary General Julio Ramirez

Arias on Meeting With U.S. Ambassador

PA0612023390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Interview with First Vice President Ricardo Arias by unidentified reporter at the Presidential Palace in Panama City; on 5 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Vice President Arias, we would like to hear your comments on U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton's meeting with the cabinet.

[Arias] The ambassador did not meet with the cabinet. He met with President Endara, Vice President Ford, and myself, because the Panamanian Government had requested the U.S. Goverment's cooperation during the recent events. Therefore, we consider it normal that the development and successful outcome of the cooperation be discussed.

[Reporter] What were the issues discussed with the ambassador at the meeting?

[Arias] During the meeting there was only an exchange of information on the way a very successful cooperation was carried out.

[Reporter] Vice President Arias, with regard to the Public Force, will new members continue to be recruited?

[Arias] We are going to continue with the new National Police recruiting program with more zeal than ever. As you know, we already have a class of 250 new recruits and we hope that when the first class completes the course we can continue with a second class of recruits.

[Reporter] Vice President Arias, there is fear in the community because of the stolen weapons which are now in the hands of street criminals. What is going to be done to remedy this situation?

[Arias] This is another challenge we must face. We are going to look into this matter and do what we can.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

Arias, Endara on Punishment

PA0612043190 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] With regard to the number of arrested persons, Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon has said the following:

[Arias] "So far there are 36 persons under arrest.

[Reporter] "What do you mean by exemplary punishment?

[Endara] "Exemplary punishment is contemplated in the penal code, severe punishment for crimes of this sort, such as coups d'etat. There are also penalties within the sanctions established by the laws of the Public Force.

[Reporter] "[Words indistinct] regarding the suspension of classes?

[Endara] "Classes were suspended for today only, is that not right, Mr. Education Minister?

[Education Minister Gordon] "Yes, classes will be held normally throughout the country tomorrow.

[Reporter] "What about a curfew?

[Endara] "Curfew, no, no.

[Reporter] "Do you know how many persons participated, 150 or 200? Will they be arrested or discharged?

[Arias] "At the moment, 36 are under arrest.

[Reporter] "Are they soldiers?

[Arias] "Yes.

[Reporter] "Will constitutional guarantees be suspended?

[Endara] "Look, our big accomplishment, not of the government, but of the Panamanian people, is that we have overcome this crisis without the need to suspend constitutional guarantees for a single instant. We Panamanians have enjoyed complete liberty here, absolutely all liberties, in the biggest crisis experienced by this administration. To control this crisis we have not had to suspend constitutional guarantees for an instant. This is a source of pride for me as a Panamanian, considering the good work of the people."

With regard to the outcome of the incidents, President Endara has stated:

[Endara] "The information we have is one dead and one wounded."

President Endara confirmed the relationship between the military revolt and the labor union strike.

[Endara] "As I was told yesterday by a journalist, I believe the connection is obvious. Any youngster who is a few years old and with some intelligence can easily deduce that they were closely linked."

Assembly President on Herrera Meeting

PA0612002190 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2315 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Interview with Legislative Assembly President Alonso Fernandez by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Legislative Assembly President Alonso Fernandez is the last person to have met with former Colonel Eduardo Herrera by his own request at the El Renacer Penitentiary Center where he is under arrest. Our news team has filed this exclusive report:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Eduardo Herrera and his followers are under arrest at the El Renacer Penitentiary Center. We confirmed this previously unofficial information when we sighted Legislative Assembly President Alonso Fernandez at the penitentiary.

[Fernandez] He is very sorry for what he has done. Repentance comes late, but this morning he was headed for the Legislative Palace to surrender his weapons. Herrera claims that they were allowed to leave the building but were unexpectedly attacked near the fresh produce market. He claims that their weapons were unloaded and that they were heading for the Legislative Palace to surrender themselves and their weapons.

[Reporter] Does this mean that other people are making coup attempts in Panama?

[Fernandez] He did not say that to me, and I cannot believe there will be other coup attempts. There can be no more attempts here, especially by the National Police, because they know full well that they cannot carry out their plans. What happened today is a case in point.

[Reporter] Does he admit his role in the 16 October coup attempt?

[Fernandez] He has not admitted it. He claims, however, that he was jailed at Naos Island and had asked Attorney General Rogelio Cruz to try him as soon as possible. He hinted to me that Cruz never took him seriously. Herrera thought that he would take the risk since he was under arrest anyway.

[Reporter] Mr. Fernandez, it has been said that the attorney general's fate is in the Assembly's hands. The citizens are complaining that his performance has not been the most appropriate. What will be the next step in this regard?

[Fernandez] A charge is needed in this case. I cannot judge whether he is doing well. Anyone who has a charge should submit it to the Assembly and we will base our ruling on it. [end recording]

Government Admits Requesting U.S. Assistance

PA0512214390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2041 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The U.S. troops that today quelled a Panamanian Police rebellion in this capital city intervened upon request from Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, the U.S. Southern Command has reported in a communique made known at the conclusion of the rebellion.

According to this communique, the significant number of U.S. troops deployed around the barracks where the Panamanian policemen had rebelled acted "in response to a request from the Panamanian president."

The U.S. Army used armored vehicles and approximately 200 heavily armed men to block access roads leading to the Panamanian Police Central Headquarters here while the rebels headed by retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera remained inside the building.

When Herrera and his followers left the barracks to go to the Legislative Assembly, U.S. units disarmed them and arrested them.

The United States, which invaded Panama on 20 December 1989 to overthrow the military regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, maintains 10,000 troops on the bases it has in the Panama Canal area.

The Panamanian Government has issued a terse nine-line communique confirming that it requested the intervention of the Southern Command. The communique justifies the request on behalf of "the defense of democracy and the constitutional government."

According to the Endara government, the United States "provided the necessary armed units to support the Panamanian police." During the 17 hours that the Panamanian police remained inside the building, however, U.S. soldiers were completely in charge of guarding the barracks and its access roads. Even Panamanian authorities arriving in the area had to show their identification papers to the U.S. soldiers.

The U.S. Embassy in Panama has also stated that the U.S. troops acted upon "a request from the Panamanian Government."

Workers Group Condemns Request

PA0612150790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1301 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 6 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—A Panamanian public workers organization last night condemned President Guillermo Endara's "loathsome" request for the intervention of U.S. troops to quell the police rebellion headed by Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

Norma Cano, spokesperson for the National Coordinating Committee for the Right to Life, which organized the public workers' general strike, told ACAN-EFE: "We condemn President Endara's despicable request, once again, for the U.S. military to intervene to silence the workers' demands."

She also pointed out that, according to reports that the organization received from Panama City and the country's interior, the strike "was 85- percent successful" throughout the country in terms of political and salary demands.

The leaders of the Coordinating Committee—which comprises 68 workers' organizations, federations, unions, and corporations—met at the University of Panama last night to assess the results of the strike and deny any connections with the attempted rebellion of Col. Herrera and his followers.

In addition, the leading political parties and various businesses and unions condemned the rebellion of a group of Panamanian policemen—stifled by U.S. troops upon Endara's request—and reported the alleged collusion of the unions and the rebels.

Endara Adopts Measures Against Strikers, Coupists

PA0512232690 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2216 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Statement issued to the nation by President Guillermo Endara on 5 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Citizens: I speak to you once again to comment on recent events in our country and to announce the measures that the government will adopt to safeguard peace and calm throughout the national territory.

The military coup attempt led by former Colonel Eduardo Herrera when he escaped from prison has been held entirely in check. All retired and active military elements who participated in the plot are now under arrest and in the custody of Panamanian authorities.

The loyalty that a majority of the members of the Public Force have made evident and the civility and support demonstrated by the Panamanian people to bolster the existing democracy and to reject the oppressive militarism, which the coupists wanted to reinstall in the country, were essential to safeguarding institutional life in our country.

It is important to point out the attitude of the majority of public and private enterprise employees who, by going to work as usual, rendered a complete failure the unjustified illegal strike that had been scheduled for today. This demonstrates that the employee rank and file is aware of our difficult national situation and that their leaders are not real leaders.

After many hours of serious thinking by state ministers and representatives of all the parties that comprise the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC], the government has adopted the following decisions:

1. To demand exemplary punishment for all the civilians and military elements who participated in the coup attempt of yesterday afternoon;

2. To dismiss the public employees whose participation in the organization of the strike scheduled for today can be verified;

3. To make efforts to accelerate the administration of justice in cases in which the people, with justified reason, demand prompt handling;

4. To consolidate the unbreakable unity of all the ADOC sectors and to make necessary rectifications to lead the country along the path of peace, progress, and social well-being.

As president, I want to point out the support offered by all the nation's sectors to my government and to the democratic system that I represent and will defend without yielding.

We have gone through a difficult experience which has taught us a lesson: Once again democracy has won. The Panamanian people have demonstrated their support for the civic principles that led them to an election victory and to the triumph of democracy, justice, and liberty in our country.

May God enlighten us to continue serving Panama, which has granted me the honor of representing it and leading it along the path of democratic reconstruction.

Thank you very much.

Workers Strike Receives 'Only Limited Support'

PA0512214590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1936 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] According to several reports, today's general strike called by a workers confederation formed of 68 public and private sector unions to repudiate the economic policies of President Guillermo Endara's government received only limited support in Panama City and went largely unheeded in the interior of the country.

Union spokesman Mario Ysturain noted that the strike had only been 50 percent effective in Panama City. He said that Colonel Eduardo Herrera's foiled political rebellion had hindered the workers strike because several union leaders have had to "take precautions" to avoid being arrested.

Vice President and Government Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon reported a few hours prior to the strike that several union leaders had met with Col. Herrera at the Public Force headquarters where he had barricaded himself in earlier.

Ysturain said that, despite the events, the strike had been 50 percent effective at the Panama-Colon Railroad Service, the two state universities, Balboa Port, the municipal refuse collection offices, the Public Works Ministry, and the Customs Office.

The labor spokesman asserted that the strike had more support in Herrera, Cocle, and Colon Provinces, although reports from various radio stations indicate that the labor movement failed in almost the entire country.

He stated that the labor leaders have taken precautions because they fear they might be arrested within the next few hours as a result of the unsuccessful attempted coup.

In downtown Panama City, approximately 200 stores had their doors half opened the entire day and were closely protected by security guards to prevent possible looting and robbery.

Editorial Warns 'Militarism Is Alive'

PA0612030090 Panama City LA CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 4

[Unattributed editorial: "Militarism Is Alive... We Warned About This"]

[Text] For months now we have been insisting on the need to put a halt to the plotting here and abroad, noting that there has been too much tolerance for several individuals of the former regime in the name of democracy. We noted that the Panamanian people were uneasy over the fact that notorious military figures enjoy a number of privileges and still hold their belligerent attitudes.

With yesterday's events, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz confirmed our speculation about the supremacy militarism has in Panama. It is time to dispel all the unanswered questions about the strange escape of former Colonel Eduardo Herrera, because the circumstances under which it took place make it necessary to speak to the people clearly to end such subterfuge once and for all.

The rescue from a so-called top security prison, the exchange of gunfire, the commercial helicopter, its landing in Tinajitas, and the kindness of allowing the former colonel to leave Tinajitas headquarters in a private vehicle, make all citizens, who now want specific answers, take a much closer look. This also includes the reasons for the delay in questioning Colonel Herrera, while he was being held on Naos Island.

If the government has no malice, then it must purge its advisers. It is highly unlikely that the government was not suspicious of the fact that everything happened at the same time—the labor union march, Herrera's escape, and the Modelo Prison riot. Everything was coordinated to destabilize the government. Furthermore, there was also existing tension created by the expectation of today's strike.

We had warned the government that it had to rid itself of the Noriega structures, especially the labor unions, but it left them intact. Mintrabs [Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare] even identified itself with the supposed leaders. After taking office, the right thing would have been for the democratic government to call on the rank and file to

hold new elections, due to the fact the present leaders were tools of the dictatorship.

We had urged the Judicial Branch to expedite the proceedings against the civilians and soldiers of the former regime, and its answer was to postpone them. There was a time when it seemed as if we were pestering the high officials. All of a sudden they became sentimental about the oppressors of the Panamanian people.

We reiterate, and the Attorney General has recognized it himself, that "militarism is alive." It must be, because it has never been hurt. Those who seek to wash away their mortal sins by invoking the principle of due obedience have been treated with velvet gloves. Militarism is alive because the minds of the ousted regime still pervade the Public Force. These people have not changed. They resist, quietly waiting for a big opportunity—such as Herrera's.

These escapes and the sluggishness of the justice system discredit the country's image. Our government has the moral and historic duty to "put on its pants" as the old adage goes, because it must show respect to earn respect. In the name of democracy, gentlemen, stand firm and do things the right way.

Mutiny Attempt at Modelo Jail Controlled

PA0512194390 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 1756 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Modelo Jail Director Medardo Castrellon has reported that a mutiny attempt took place at that jail this morning but it was quickly put under control.

[Begin recording] [Castrellon] At approximately 1000, a group of inmates who were engaged in sports activities in the yard began a mutiny attempt; they were joined by other inmates in the cells. From experience, we know that if such a movement is allowed to continue, it can lead to a serious situation.

Consequently, prison guards reacted quickly and controlled the uprising. They took positions inside and outside the jail. Several shots were fired, and the guards used tear gas. Fortunately, nothing happened. No one was hurt and no one escaped.

[Reporter] How many prisoners are there here at the Modelo Jail?

[Castrellon] Currently, there are 1,098 inmates. We are close to the 2,000 mark. This is a very grave situation. We have reported this several times.

We are very worried about today's incidents because we imagine that arrests will be made in connection with today's actions and that those arrested will be brought to the Modelo Jail. Consequently, crowding continues and there is no immediate solution to this problem.

We are very worried and want to publicly state this: The situation at the Modelo Jail is explosive. The prison population is extremely high. The building is too small; the jail population is four times bigger than what the jail can hold. [end recording]

Finance Minister's Residence Attacked

PA0412143490 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Dec 90 pp 1, 28

[Report by Arnulfo Mendoza]

[Text] Unidentified people attacked the residence of Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo at approximately 1930 on 3 December. The assailants used low-caliber weapons and the bullets hit the front of Minister Galindo's residence in the Altos del Golf residential area. The assailants' vehicle zoomed in front of the house while they fired shots. Minister Galindo's security guards repelled the attack and the assailants fled.

Minister Galindo was home with his wife and family when the attack occurred. Nobody was wounded.

The presidential security guards, who are responsible for the minister's personal security, arrived at the minister's home to investigate the attack. Technical Judicial Police members also came to the area to offer their assistance.

Minister Galindo's relatives are concerned, as this is the second attack on Galindo's residence since he has been a member of President Endara's cabinet. The previous attack occurred four months ago, when someone threw a homemade bomb that exploded near his residence.

Government officials immediately began to investigate the 3 December attack and will try to capture those responsible. No organization has claimed responsibility for the attack on this high-ranking government official.

Demonstrators Block Transisthmian Highway

PA0612044690 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The traffic of vehicles on the Transisthmian Highway near the University of Panama was interrupted this morning as eight persons, who did not identify themselves as university students, erected barricades and threw rocks at the drivers who tried to transit this important city highway.

A similar situation occurred near El Carmen Church, when unidentified persons blocked the flow of traffic along Federico Boyd and Via Espana Avenues. Any protest, no matter how justified it may be, brings the rejection of the people. Attitudes such as this undermine the credibility of the leaders of the protest, demonstrating that their objectives are far from a simple protest.

It is unacceptable that a tiny group, invested with power that no one has assigned it, is allowed to block and impede the free movement of other people, as happened this morning.

Arias Calderon Comments on Washington Visit

PA0412203890 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Interview with Arias Calderon, first vice president and justice minister, by journalist Homero Londono in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Londono] What was the main objective of your trip to the United States? What did you accomplish?

[Arias Calderon] I believe that the main objective was to give top U.S. Government authorities a clearer view of what Panamanians are doing, as we see it. I was encouraged by the fact that despite a busy week caused by the Persian Gulf crisis and the UN Security Council meeting, the U.S. president had time for us. Also present at the meeting were the U.S. vice president; State Department representatives; and General Brent Scowcroft, assistant to the president for National Security Affairs. They heard Panama's views regarding the current situation. They expressed their support clearly for the Panamanian democracy we are building and for our efforts to improve our economy.

I was particularly encouraged by the fact that many people with whom I met expressed their admiration—that was the word they used—for the work we have accomplished in the area of public security. A high-ranking spokesman told me: We did not think it could be done, but now we know that the change you talked about is taking place.

All in all, there is a certainty—at least I have returned with that certainty—that no matter how big the commitments the United States may have to the rest of the world, it has not forgotten Panama. The United States really wants to maintain truly solid and substantial relations. That is important for us in all fields, especially in the areas of democracy and economic recovery.

[Londono] One more question, because I know you are in a hurry. Whenever a Panamanian Government leader leaves the country—especially to the United States where you were invited—it creates expectations and skepticism among the Panamanian people. who wonder if you are going to negotiate or obtain money to face the current crisis. We would like to know if you managed to find out why we are not receiving the aid that was promised to us; prior to the invasion, it was said to be more than $1 billion?

[Arias Calderon] It was always said that half of that aid would be in guarantees for exports and investments. In other words, 50 percent would not be given in cash, while the other half—$420 million—would be granted in cash. I believe that the delay is due, among other things, to the political process that had to be followed in the United States and to bureaucratic procedures in both governments. I believe, however, that there is goodwill to continue cooperating with Panama, and this is very important.

[Londono] Before we end this interview, there is concern about the 5 December strike. What will the government do to prevent this, considering that a strike would be harmful to the country's economic development?

[Arias Calderon] I have just returned. Therefore, I will limit my first statement to reporting on my trip to the Untied States. Starting tomorrow I will be in a better position to comment on other current issues.

Bar President Views TALM, Canal Treaties

PA0612003790 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Jose Alberto Alvarez, president of the Panamanian Bar Association, has not ruled out the possibility that in the next few years the United States may try to "weaken" Panama in an attempt to demand a revision of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The treaties limit the continuation of the U.S. military presence up to the year 2000.

Alvarez said that the United States, in order to carry out its plans, may say that there is anarchy in the country and that President Endara's government is not ruling the country with a "strong hand."

The treaties signed in 1977 establish that the canal, the construction of which was completed in 1914, should be transferred to Panama and that some 13,000 soldiers must leave the bases installed on the banks of the waterway.

Alvarez deplored the fact that the Foreign Ministry "has prevented the Panamanian people from reviewing" the text of various treaties that Panama is currently negotiating with the United States and that could harm the economy and the banking system.

Alvarez referred to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (TALM) currently being negotiated, which would permit access to information on bank accounts presumably linked to drug trafficking and to tax evasion in the United States.

Alvarez said that the U.S. Embassy through U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton circulated the draft of a treaty containing proposed amendments to the laws on banking secrecy and stock companies.

He said that this draft treaty, which is part of a package of four treaties proposed by the United States in March, "is much more harmful to our system."

Foreign Ministry Orders Cuban Diplomats To Leave

PA0412213690 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2100 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Foreign Ministry communique issued on 4 December in Panama City—read by announcer]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry advises that today, through verbal note AJ No. 251, dated 3 December 1990, the

national government has asked Mr. Guillermo Mendez Perez, economic attache, and Oscar Braulio Gutierrez, commercial attache, to leave the national territory within 120 hours of the aforementioned time.

2. [number as heard] The previous measure is due to the well-known fact that in the official residence of the Cuban ambassador, asylum-seeker Luis Antonio Gomez Perez and deposed dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega Moreno have been having phone conversations, violating the Caracas convention of 1954 on diplomatic asylum, that give details on various activities that could affect public order, and which are obviously intended to create actions aimed at destabilizing the legitimate government of President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

3. [number as heard] The diplomatic relations between the Republic of Panama and the Republic of Cuba will remain at the level of charge d'affaires, and with a minimum of accredited diplomatic personnel, the charge d'affaires and the consul general. [sentence as heard]

Panama, 4 December 1990.

Endara, Assembly Condemn Argentinian Rebellion

PA0412164790 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 4 Dec 90 pp 1, A10

[Report by Cesar Gomez Marin]

[Text] The National Legislative Assembly of Panama on 3 December issued a resolution condemning the attempted coup against the Republic of Argentina's democratic institutions. Meanwhile, President Guillermo Endara also condemned the armed uprising and sent a message of solidarity to his colleague Carlos Menem.

In a brief message President Endara said: "We hope the Argentine military officers realize the great harm they are doing to the nation, and will lay down their arms for the good of the nation and for the strengthening of democracy, not only in Argentina but throughout Latin America."

The Assembly resolution, proposed by Deputies Arnulfo Escalona, Alonso Villareal, and Alonso Fernandez offers "the Legislative Assembly's unrestricted support to the Argentinian constitutional government as a worthy representative of the Argentinian people. The resolution was approved unanimously. [no closing quotes as published]

Deputy Alonso Villareal, explaining the resolution, said that a "very small" sector of the Argentinian Armed Forces was involved in yesterday's uprising. The same group conducted a similar uprising two years ago. A colonel (Ali Mohamed Seneldin) who gave advice and support to the Noriega regime is involved in the coup attempt.

Villareal said that Argentinian Army, along with political and civilian sectors, did not support the the military uprising. He said it is appropriate for the Panamanian national Legislative Assembly to express its rejection of the uprising and its solidarity with the Argentinian people and the democratically elected government.

Villareal said, "These actions threaten democracy as the viable means to obtaining power and creating insecurity. They deter investment and are a source of permanent discontent to a great number of people. We are obligated to grant our moral solidarity, and "unrestricted support" to the Argentinian people and Congress.

Resolution

The National Assembly:

Whereas:

1. In the early morning of 3 December 1990, a minority of the Argentinian Army attempted a coup;

2. The group is a repeat offender in its antidemocratic attempt to disrupt constitutional order;

3. Our national Legislative Assembly, as the true representative of the Panamanian people, has been closely following the Argentinian people's efforts to consolidate the democratic and representative system and end the militaristic past, which has caused the country so much harm;

4. We had the honor today of hosting a delegation of the Argentinian congressional commission, with which we discussed important topics concerning relations between our parliaments and nations;

Resolves:

1. To reject the recent coup attempted against the Argentinian democratic institutions;

2. To offer the National Assembly's unrestricted support to the Argentinian constitutional government, as worthy representatives of the people;

3. To send copies of this resolution to His Excellency the Argentinian ambasssador to Panama and to the media.

Argentina

President Menem Speaks at Dinner for Bush

PY0612015490 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2345 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Speech by President Carlos Menem at a dinner for U.S. President George Bush at the Argentine Rural Association in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] Mr. President and friend; diplomatic corps; civilian, military, and ecclesiastical officials; ladies and gentlemen; and Argentine and U.S. brothers and sisters:

The Argentine Republic welcomes you today with satisfaction and hope—with satisfaction because during your historic visit, you can be a witness to an entire nation's effort to progress; with hope because we are aware that a great deal remains to be done, and in this task we have the conviction that we have a common task with the United States.

Our country is involved in truly changing the system on the basis of the pillars of legal democracy, market economy, and international integration. We are going through a new order. We are doing it because our country cannot have the privilege of remaining apart or isolated from the great changes that are quickly taking place on the international scene.

Therefore, on behalf of my government and the Argentine people and upon welcoming you as an illustrious visitor, I would like to convey to you, Mr. President and friend, that the Argentine Republic will never again—and I repeat—never again fall into an attitude of resentment and an inferiority complex before the world, into suicidal, decadent isolation. Our transformation has three pillars that we are consolidating and testing. First is the pillar of democracy and freedom. Democratic coexistence is now an irreversible process among all Argentines as shown by the recent regrettable events my country experienced. Never again will a group of villains and criminals be able to make a mockery of the Argentine's people's desire for peaceful coexistence. [applause]

Peace and democracy have had a high cost for Argentina; we paid it once and for all to close a tragic chapter of absurd confrontations. This chapter, which has been definitely closed, also shows that our democracy is definitely consolidated in the country despite all that remains to be done for the country's overall development with social justice and freedom for all.

Argentina can now say before the world that it is sure of itself and of its way of life in opposition to the absurd law of force. It can say that our nation has consolidated the state of law for everyone, the force of its constitutional legality, and, basically, it has consolidated collective awareness among the people who are no longer willing to tolerate adventures of any ideology.

Dear friend, difficult times are a test for the real spirit of nations and people. We know that a system cannot be changed without disturbance, work, and even pain. We are all convinced, however, that this is the only way to overcome our country's chronic ills, which are characterized by hyperinflation, a lack of investments, a paralyzing state structure, and regulating forces that have tied up any possibility of expansion and growth. We hope to build a genuine, healthy, forthright, and effective capitalist system. We are removing the obstacles that curtailed our takeoff and ruined our material wealth and human resources.

Stabilization of our currency, a decisive privatization plan, deregulation of strategic sectors of our economy, market freedom, elimination of unjust subsidies and privileges, and encouragement of private initiative as the only way to guarantee common good are concepts on which we have based our so-called popular market economy.

Naturally, this popular market economy takes into consideration the growing interdependence of the global economy. In this regard, the third basic aspect of our proposal for change is based on continental integration. The reality of an increasingly interdependent world has led our country to encourage integration programs with its neighbors to create a new economic area.

Latin American integration is now more than just a project; it is, like its democratic system, an irreversible reality. The integration with Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and possibly Chile aims at creating a common market that will be the initial stage for a larger continental integration. In this spirit, Argentina looks with expectation at the great possibilities of the proposals contained in the Americas Initiative you announced in your 27 June 1990 speech. We are well aware of its concepts, which we believe are essential for our future: establishment of a free zone extending throughout the continent to increase trade, implementation of measures to strengthen investments in the region, and a new attitude toward foreign debt to ease its burden on our economies. In this regard, our concern for protection of the environment is also widely shared because our planet's health is a universal cause for which we must find imaginative, intelligent, and generous solutions.

Dear friend, the list of our efforts and expectations would not be sincere if I failed to mention on this occasion the serious harm done to our recovery by EEC and U.S. subsidies for agricultural exports. The commercial policy of subsidized sales goes against our recovery process. We believe the basis of our recovery is free trade and healthy competition. Therefore, we hope these rules will be respected and that the countries that advocate harmful commercial policies understand the dramatic situation of our countries. We have confidence in that understanding and in our ability to reach an agreement—through dialogue and negotiation—at the GATT meeting of the Uruguay Round, which is holding its final session in Brussels. Intransigent positions must be overcome because they only increase the breach between industrialized and developing countries.

Our officials held bilateral negotiations in the last few weeks. The negotiations were aimed, on one side, at our country adhering to the subsidies and antidumping [preceding word in English] measures, and on the other side, at the United States setting a schedule for the elimination of compensatory rights that tax Argentine products on the U.S. market. During the negotiations our two nations showed their will to eliminate subsidies and provide more access to their markets.

We hope we will sign this agreement in a few more days, according to an agreement we reached this morning during our talk. We have the same expectation in relation to the agreement for creation of a commerce and investment commission that will comprise your country and the four countries of the Southern Cone common market. This will be the starting point of the negotiations to fully implement the Americas Initiative.

Mr. President, our commitment to continental integration does not exclude our commitment to international integration. Within this context our country has made historic decisions to reaffirm its willingness to actively participate in the new international scene.

The presence of Argentine ships in the Persian Gulf in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions is aimed at cooperating in preserving peace in a conflictive region. My government decision is clear. All nations, absolutely all nations, are committed when there is a need to respect the basic rules of international law in light of events that jeopardize world security.

Our recent agreement with Brazil is also an historic event. Through this agreement a system of bilateral nuclear safeguards were put into operation. This agreement opens the door to move forward in other promising areas. I would like to say, Mr. President, that this afternoon—and this was not originally included in my speech, but it is good to inform you just as you informed me of some of the things occurring in the Persian Gulf—I received a message from the president of Chile supporting the agreement we reached with Brazil. This shows the Chilean will to work on this issue together with Brazil, Argentina, and other countries of the region.

We are ready to begin joint negotiations with the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] to bring our bilateral agreement into compliance with IAEA safeguards. Our agreement with Brazil also allows us to move ahead in our evaluation of our full adherence with the Tlatelolco Treaty after its technological aspects are harmonized and updated.

I also cannot fail to point out our satisfaction with the high degree of cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking. The recent memorandum of understanding signed by Argentina and the United States, which improves the basic cooperation agreement of 1989, enlarges bilateral cooperation with the participation of national organizations, the Federal Police, and the provinces. I would like to reiterate once again that this struggle has absolute priority for all of us. We know that this is a struggle for the future. We know that it is a struggle for the men of the future regardless of ideological, racial, religious, and economic differences.

Dear friend, this is an outline of the strategic aspects that control our actions in Argentina, the American continent, and the world. We Argentines do not intend to tell you what we are going to do—we prefer to point out what we are already doing. This is the basic cause nourishing our hope. Let it be known to you that this is not a naive hope that supposes our development will be the result of a gracious concession, a magic prescription, or a gift from heaven. Let it be known to you that this is a realistic hope, a practical idealism, a dream that can be accomplished.

Argentina has decided once and for all to rise from the bottom of the world. It is working hard to forge a new leadership. We believe in a single miracle, the miracle that above all depends on our own ability to grow with work and the correct distribution of our assets. We believe that people are irreplaceable as participants in their own destiny, but we are also convinced that in the new world rising on the horizon no single nation, no one, and no region can save themselves alone. They can only expand by themselves. Here and now, cooperation and integration are not only national, they are also universal. The only dividing line that exists today is one that exists between an old, tired world and a new, promising world.

Argentina has decided to be an associate of that new world, with dignity, maturity, and seriousness. From this portal it aspires to mature, be fruitful, and grow in its relations with the United States.

Dear President, in your honor and in the honor of your great people, I lift my glass and I invite everyone to lift their glasses to toast, from the deepness of our hearts, the people of the United States, its authorities, and especially, this President and friend, George Bush. To your health. [applause]

Menem Orders Lifting of State of Siege

PY0512182090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] President Menem has issued a decree ordering the lifting of the state of siege nationwide as of midnight today because the domestic unrest that justified its enforcement has been overcome.

Menem has also authorized the military court to investigate and to subject to a pretrial inquest under peacetime those responsible for the mutiny carried out on Monday. The authorization, which is included in the decree published today in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE states: Following the uprising in several Army units, which seriously harmed the military discipline, those involved in the incident must be immediately repressed and prosecuted.

The background on the involvement of 266 military officers, who are currently under arrest, in the bloody mutiny in several Army units is being delivered to the Armed Forces Supreme Council.

A military court source said that in compliance with President Menem's orders, the dissident group will be subject to pretrial inquests. The source added that following the oral proceedings at the military court, the leaders of the mutiny could be sentenced to death or sent to jail for an undetermined time in keeping with the code of the military court.

A high-level source at the San Martin de los Andes 4th Regiment has reported that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, retired, is still being held at this military unit. Asked whether Seineldin could be transferred to the federal capital or to another regiment in the next few hours, the source said that he was unable to answer, and that any questions on this issue should be put to the Army chief of staff.

Defense Minister Humberto Romero today said that following the incidents that have shaken the public, the rumors of a group of businessmen who allegedly financed this attempted coup d'etat will be investigated.

Romero said that all military men who participated in the mutiny last Monday will be discharged and processed by the military court. He thinks that following this incident, no other military group will dare to repeat these type of actions which seek to create unrest in the country.

Asked about rumors that Seineldin had requested a pistol, Romero made it clear that the head of the 4th Regiment has reported on a letter written by Seineldin, and said that Seineldin asked for a pistol, which obviously was not given to him. As to whether he wanted the gun to commit suicide, he said that this was mere speculation.

Justicialist Party Senator Eduardo Menem said that the big question is: Who financed the uprising? The investigation should not include only those who perpetrated the attack but also those who financed the operation because they are as guilty as those who carried out the armed action. He denied having said that another rebellion was expected on Monday. The senator made it clear that the intelligence secretariat had advised him of a possible attempt against his life to create an atmosphere of unrest before President Bush's visit to Argentina.

Menem said that the slogan used by Seineldin on signing the letter claiming responsibility for the incidents that occurred on Monday was not even used in the 1940's. The slogan, which reads, "God: fatherland or death," was used in the past century by some insane leaders.

Menem then ruled out the possibility of a class struggle within the Army. He thinks that, following the uprising of the Painted Faces, there will be greater unity within the Army.

Article Examines Military Rebellion

PY0512233090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1545 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Special for NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS by Luis Torres: "Painted Faces: A Solitary, Tragic End"]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (NA)—In the wake of the tragic and shocking seditious uprising, the main question the public is asking is: To what extent were the government or the state intelligence services aware of the Painted Faces' insane plans?

This question is followed by another: If the government and the intelligence services knew or had clues about it, why did they not try to avert the uprising and prevent the bloodshed that affected both civilians and military men?

We will probably never know all the secret information that was at hand, but we can try to get close by analyzing remarks from official sources, both half words and mysterious phrases.

When asked if the government knew about the Painted Faces' plans, why did President Carlos Menem say it was a state secret? Sources close to the presidential office contend that it was well known for some time that the rebels would attempt some type of action on the occasion of George Bush's visit. These sources stated, however, that there was no information about the time and hour the uprising would start. Without a doubt, the government was obtaining increasingly strong evidence. Proof of this is the reinforcement of bodyguards at Senator Eduardo Menem's home.

An intelligence analyst came up with another interpretation that does not clash with leaks and reports filtered through official sources: It should not be considered a coincidence that the uprising was unleashed shortly before George Bush's visit, nor should it be considered a coincidence that the blunt response from the loyal forces ended—perhaps once and for all—the controversial career of Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

The Bush administration did not exactly regard Seineldin as a friend. No one can forget Seineldin's almost ghastly televised appearance, in military uniform, to voice support for Noriega's government in Panama. Noriega was the target of a U.S. military operation in Panama that ended with Noriega's arrest and trial [as received] on drug trafficking charges.

Another repulsive action for Washington is Seineldin's support for the regime of Saddam Husayn, who is today regarded as the world's worst enemy.

With this information, one can ask the following question: Was it not a successful move for the government to deal a fatal blow to the Painted Faces 48 hours before George Bush's arrival in the country, taking into account that the Bush administration is about to wage war against Husayn?

Within this framework of analysis, one could legitimately speculate that:

—The U.S. President's visit must have been preceded, with several weeks lead time, by top experts of the Secret Service, whose mission should have been to detect possible ultrarightist or leftist hostile pockets.

—Speaking speculatively, one should not rule out the possibility that those experts were—and continue to be—in close contact with the Argentine intelligence services. Furthermore, how could the United States afford not to help someone who sent two warships to the Persian Gulf?

—The blunt, outright confirmation of Bush's visit by the U.S. Government when the smoke of artillery fire had not yet subsided over the rebel strongholds clearly shows that Washington knew that it would not take more than 24 hours for the loyal forces to quash the rebels.

Could anyone doubt that the visit would have been canceled if the government had failed to show, as effectively and overwhelmingly as it did, that it was capable of crushing the rebellion?

Finally, to make it clear that the Argentine people are mature and no longer suck their thumbs, we can draw the following conclusions:

—The government had reliable, clear information that the Painted Faces were plotting to stage a commando coup as the Bush visit drew nearer. Intelligence sources even knew that in September the rebels were talking about a "spring plan," which did not allude precisely to the economy, but to the original time slated for the White House chief's visit.

—In contrast, the government did not have any information on the precise date or time for the uprising. Proof of this is the dishonor brought upon the military leadership by the fact that the Painted Faces were able to seize the Libertador Building, which was named Libertador in tribute to General San Martin and is the Army chief of staff's headquarters.

—The Armed Forces and the defense minister had perfectly coordinated a plan of action, by stages, to repress the rebels: First, the use of Army forces to quash the rebellion; second, joint operations when the rebel strongholds required greater force; and third, the concentration of all loyal military power on each of the rebel strongholds to end the rebellion as soon as possible.

Who Won and Who Lost

It is almost obvious that Carlos Menem has emerged from this uprising clearly strengthened. He showed confidence, precision, and firmness in the news conference he gave at nightfall on 3 December. An opinion polls analyst estimated Menem's popularity at nearly 80 percent 24 hours after the uprising.

The Armed Forces won. Defense Minister Humberto Romero and SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] Chief Hugo Anzorregui also emerged as winners. Some generals personally led the actions to quash the rebels, thus doing away with the name "office generals" given to them by the Rico-led movement during the Holy Week uprising. Romero can be credited with having made preparations for the joint military action. It has been reported that the SIDE submitted a daily report to the president on the Painted Faces' plans to jeopardize the Bush visit and elevate Seineldin as the Army chief.

Another quiet winner was Bush, who saw how the Menem government crushed a potential enemy who reneged on democracy and lauded questionable figures such as Noriega and Husayn.

The main loser was Seineldin, especially his ideas, which were spilled with blood this time. Death is always near Colonel Seineldin. There is almost a fatal attraction between Seineldin and death. Proof of this is his invocation to God: Fatherland or death.

Aldo Rico, who is trying almost desperately to remain on good terms with all sides and is trying to distance himself from Seineldin, is another loser.

The past, extremism, backwardness, madness, and the insanity of those who dangerously mix faith with arms are the ultimate losers.

Consumer Prices Rise by 6.2 Percent in Nov

PY0512214890 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Planning Secretary Moises Ikonikoff yesterday announced that consumer prices rose by 6.2 percent during the month of November, while wholesale prices increased by 1.3 percent, and the cost of construction in the Federal Capital went up 5.8 percent.

Bolivia

Coca-Cola Manager Murdered by Abductors

PY0512124090 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1152 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A joint police operation started at dawn today with the discovery of the stronghold where Jorge Londsdale [Coca-Cola manager in Bolivia] was being held. The arrest of a Peruvian citizen early this morning prompted Londsdale's abductors, in an inhuman and criminal decision, to murder him by shooting him in the head behind the ear.

Jorge Londsdale was murdered at dawn today by his abductors, who were all subsequently arrested by members of the Interior Ministry military police [as heard] and of the Bolivian police forces.

The efforts made during the past few hours by the Interior Ministry to safeguard not only Jorge Lonsdale's life but freedom and law in Bolivia, prompted his abductors in a desperate and repugnant move to murder him in cold blood at dawn today when they realized they were surrounded by the police. [passage omitted]

Leader of CNPZ Committee Killed

PY0512151490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1430 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] La Paz, 5 Dec (EFE)—It has been officially confirmed that Miguel Northtufster, a former seminarist of Italian origin who is believed to be the leader of the "Nestor Paz Zamora Committee" [CNPZ], was killed this morning in a clash with military and police troops.

Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco has reported: "Three terrorists, Miguel Northtufster, of Italian-German origin, and Luis Caballero and Augusto Zalles, were killed in the clash."

Before dawn today, joint Army and police task force troops found the hideout where, since 11 June, the ultra-leftist CNPZ have kept abducted industrialist Jorge Lonsdale, chairman of the "Coca-Cola" company of Bolivia.

Jorge Lonsdale was killed by a shot in the head when his abductors were surrounded by the police and Army troops in an operation carried out in Sopocachi, a posh La Paz neighborhood.

Capobianco said: "There was a harsh combat for 10 minutes," and that as a result of this operation "the group has been annihilated."

He added that a Peruvian, identified as Federico Lorgio Guaman, who is an alleged member of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA], was arrested along with Bolivians Ines Paola Acasigue and Sebastian Acasigue.

Noncommissioned Officer Edwin Belmonte is in critical condition, and Policeman Javier Ramirez Vera was also wounded in the clash.

Northtufster, alias "Gonzalo," "Raul," "Gringo," and "Largo Miguel," arrived in Bolivia in 1982 as a seminarist. With identification documents that accredited him as a priest, he established the "Nestor Paz Zamora Committee."

The police identified him when they found the car used in the attack on the U.S. Marines on 10 October, which was abandoned with documents inside it.

President Comments on Situation

PY0612025490 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0120 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] In a speech to the country, President Jaime Paz Zamora explained what happened to businessman Jorge Lonsdale and his kidnappers on the morning of 5 December in the Sopocachi Region:

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] This morning a disgrace threw not only a family, but also our entire country into mourning. Throughout the night, I attentively followed the events. This morning I learned about a small group of bad Bolivians who chose the wrong path and believed that they could find a solution to our national problems by taking arms and killing other Bolivians. They did not realize that the only solution to these problems is to build a solid, stable fatherland. Our country is now gradually achieving economic growth and social development. Our country is now becoming modern and is, day by day, gaining more of a presence on the international scene and meriting more respect abroad.

This group believed that by killing or kidnapping Bolivians, by dragging them from their homes, by blackmailing them to obtain money, and by finally returning them to their families they would be acting positively for the benefit of the country.

As the president of all Bolivians, I take this opportunity to say that the Bolivian people have clearly and definitively indicated that they want to live in a democracy where the rights and freedom of all are respected. We want to live in a democracy that must become better each day because our democracy still has a long way to go. There is no other way of solving our economic problems and our social welfare problems. There is no other way of modernizing and organizing our country.

We Bolivians who have chosen to live in democracy have laws and a Constitution that clearly establishes that the Bolivians have decided that the only armed groups, the only armed forces that can exist in the country are the national Armed Forces. Under no circumstances can we allow any Bolivian to go against the law, take up arms, and confront the only legal and constitutional Armed Forces, which were created when our Republic was born. [end recording]

Capobianco Briefs Reporters on Murder

PY0612031290 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2339 GMT 5 Dec 90

[News conference by Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco at the Interior Ministry in La Paz; broadcast in progress—live]

[Excerpts] [Capobianco] [Passage omitted] Even though you already have the full names of those killed this morning and of those arrested by our security services, I will officially give you this information.

Those who died in the fighting are: Miguel Northtufster, whose nom de guerre was Gonzalo and who was also known as Gringo. Recently, he became the leader of the terrorist organization. Northtufster left his fatherland, Italy, when he was very young. As you know, we have confirmed reports that he came to our country to avoid military service in his country. For almost a year he was

a member of the Cochabamba Greater Seminary, and later he became involved with middle class organizations and, especially, with university organizations.

Northtufster was also widely connected with parochial groups and church movements, especially in La Paz, but also in other districts of Bolivia. He was also known in the city of Santa Cruz, where he undertook various activities. I believe, however, that he engaged in his most important activities only recently when he consolidated his terrorist group and when he engaged in the planning and unleashing of (?bloody actions), tragic events.

The other dead terrorists are Luis Caballero Insfran, who was in charge of the military branch of the terrorist group, and Osvaldo Espinosa, aka Esteban, who was in charge of [words indistinct]. It has been fully confirmed that [name indistinct] participated on 11 June in the kidnapping of [name indistinct].

Espinosa is a young man who was a youth leader in Viacha, where he was linked to church and parochial movements. He participated in the military operation against the U.S. Marine House on 11 October. At that time, Espinosa sustained three bullet wounds, which was confirmed later through the investigation. Aided by his comrades, Espinosa managed to get to El Alto and, from there, he was taken to a carpentry shop on 10th Street—that is, the house 200 meters from our [words indistinct].

These were the three terrorists killed. Why were they killed and why did Julio Sebastian Acasigue Parada, Paola Ines Acasigue Parada, and Federico Lorgio Guaman—of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement—survive? Why are they alive, while the others are dead? [passage omitted]

I reached the conclusion that, after the first 10 minutes of fighting, these people realized that they were lost. Thus, they surrendered and were brought to the Interior Ministry, showing absolute respect for their human rights because they had already put down their weapons. Why did Northtufster, the terrorist leader, and the other two not have the same luck? Because they were closer to the prisoner on the upper floor of the house. [passage omitted]

I believe Northtufster, Escobar, and Espinosa were the most experienced members of the group, who were determined to either kill or to die. [passage omitted]

I want to make something quite clear after reading press reports on the case. My advisers and I have agreed that we must clarify a press report—I believe it was released by (Amalia Pazos)—claiming that the three toughest and dangerous terrorists were murdered in cold blood because they had allegedly already surrendered when they were shot dead.

I want to assure our people that we have not lied and that all our remarks are based on a thorough intelligence investigation. [Words indistinct] that Northtufster was leading the group and we finally caught him at his last hideout. We have given the names of virtually all the leaders of this terrorist group. Our conclusions have been substantiated by facts. Thus, we state that in this operation no one engaged in any action violating moral principles or the state of law, or international conventions governing treatment of prisoners or in war situations. [passage omitted]

As I said yesterday, our main objective was to defend life and freedom. [passage omitted]

Gentlemen, the president of the Confederation of the Bolivian Private Businessmen this morning conveyed to me his absolute, complete solidarity with what happened. In the wake of Jorge Lonsdale's tragic death, I said to him: Next week, businessmen, government officials, and other representative Bolivian groups, should sit down and throughly discuss the subject of public security in the country. As the president said at Plaza Murillo, Bolivia has every structural condition to continue to be—listen carefully—to continue to be one of the least violent and more peaceful countries in the world, taking into account our culture and our feelings.

I want to end the first part of this news conference by quoting President Paz Zamora, who inspired us to do what we are doing at the Interior Ministry. He said: No people can be truly free if they have to live amid uncertainty, fear, and terror. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Rezek Affirms No Change in Gulf Crisis Stand

PY0612005090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek appeared before the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee today. He explained the work being conducted by Itamaraty during the current administration and reasserted that the Brazilian Government is maintaining its position on the Persian Gulf crisis:

[Begin Rezek recording] No, there has been no change in the Brazilian Government's attitude toward the crisis. I believe our position regarding our attitude and prognostics is the same. [end recording]

The foreign minister also commented on the closing of diplomatic missions abroad. According to Rezek, the changes will not affect the Brazilian Government's performance in international affairs or its policies.

Government Optimistic About U.S. Attitude

PY0612020290 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Luis Erlanger]

[Text] Brasilia—Appraising U.S. President George Bush's position on the Brazilian foreign debt, Planalto Palace believes there has been a change in the tone of

three approaches to the issue, and all of them have favorable prospects for Brazil.

First, Bush showed unusual goodwill toward the debtor. While U.S. officials traditionally adopt a demanding position, President Bush, in his speech at the National Congress, even mentioned "people cannot become prosperous if the government is overburdened by debt." Second, the U.S. entourage showed a reiterated disposition to refer to the debt as a matter for discussion with the private banks. Ethically, it would have been unacceptable if the U.S. Government had taken sides with the bankers. Previously, however, this had been the attitude adopted—although in a disguised manner—by the U.S. Government.

Third, the Brazilian Government welcomed another change in behavior—perhaps the most important one—during Collor's private meeting with Bush at Planalto Palace. On that occasion, the U.S. President expressed support for a long-term solution to the debt. Coincidentally, this has been one of the pillars of the Brazilian Government's proposal for negotiation of the debt. During the talk, Collor took the initiative of introducing all the topics to be discussed and thanked Bush for supporting, in an interview with O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO on 2 December, a long-term solution to the debt problem, although this position goes against the creditors' interests.

Bush confirmed that he believes this principle is indispensable for maintaining harmony and ensuring growth. In another demonstration of goodwill, the U.S. President surprisingly stressed that he did not have much information about the progress of the negotiations; that he had vaguely heard that financial circles had received Brazil's proposal with a "certain concern;" and that he was confident Brazil would seek an agreement that will serve its interests.

Chile

Bomb Explodes at Hotel Linked to Bush Visit

PY0612103090 Madrid EFE in English 0855 GMT 06 Dec 90

[Text] Santiago, Dec 6 (EFE)—Leftist rebels exploded a small bomb early Thursday at a top hotel in the Chilean capital where aides to U.S. President Geroge Bush were scheduled to check-in later in the day, police said.

No-one was injured when the device went off in the grounds of the central Hotel Crown Plaza where officials due to land in Santiago with Bush later Thursday have reservations.

The U.S. President, on a week-long tour of Latin America, is also slated to have breakfast at the hotel on Friday with members of the Chilean-U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) rebel group claimed resonsibility for the attack in a telephone call to a Chilean radio station.

They claimed to have planted other bombs in the city to protest against Bush's visit.

The FPMR, which emerged in 1983, has usually targeted members of the security forces and officials who served under former military dictator General Augusto Pinochet.

In 1986, the group carried out a failed assassination attempt against Pinochet, killing five of his bodyguards. Pinochet handed over power to democratically-elected President Patricio Aylwin in March.

Bush is to spend around 24 hours in Chile.

On Friday, he is to travel to Caracas to meet Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez before returning to Washington on Saturday.

Bomb Attacks Herald Bush's Arrival

PY0612110490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1039 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The southern side (calzada sur) of Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue and Paraguay Avenue have been completely cordoned off by the police this morning. No flags of greeting or welcome banners for the U.S. President have been placed on the streets as is normally done when illustrious foreign visitors come to Santiago. The most remarkable event today is that the whole of Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue, its southern side, and Paraguay Avenue have been cordoned off.

As for the attacks that took place last night, the police have confirmed that there have been six attacks—five of which took place in Santiago and one in the city of Coquimbo. The most serious attack took place in San Borja Park with the explosion of a 400 gram-(Tronex) bomb that had been planted by unidentified individuals.

Attacks occurred on the Mormon churches at 714 Los Lirios Street, Puente Alto District, and at 185 Mirador Azul Street, La Florida District. The attack on the Mormon Church on Los Lirios Street was committed by five hooded individuals who, after locking up 26 people who were inside the church, sprinkled it with gasoline and set it on fire. Practically the whole Mormon temple was destroyed.

A similar attack, but with a bomb, was committed against the Mormon Church on Mirador Azul Street. Another bomb exploded at 872 Vicente Valdez Street, La Florida District, and finally, another bomb exploded at 5200 Transito Street, Pudahuel District. Another bomb exploded in Coquimbo. All these bomb attacks are in protest over the visit of U.S. President George Bush to Santiago.

Rally Against Bush Visit 'Unauthorized'

PY0612004690 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Relay from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has stated that the rally called by the so-called Intransigent Peoples Movement [Movimiento Pueblo Intransigente] for this afternoon at Baquedano Square is unauthorized and will not be authorized if a request is made. Krauss added that an expression of this nature, which according to its organizers is designed to protest Bush's visit to Chile, is unjustified.

Unauthorized Protest Rally Held

PY0612121590 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Violent incidents were reported in downtown Santiago when members of the Intransigent Peoples Movement tried to stage a rally, which had not been authorized, to protest over the visit of U.S. President George Bush to Chile today.

Carabineros had to resort to using water cannons and tear gas to disband the demonstrators who tried to march from the Baquedano Square to the Plaza de Armas.

Some isolated groups managed to break the police cordon and reached the downtown area where skirmishes were reported.

At the Baquedano Square the demonstrators set fire to a U.S. flag and repelled the Carabineros with Molotov cocktails, which they threw at the Carabineros' vans.

The incidents took place just after 1800 at the start of the anti-imperialist march that had been called by the so-called Intransigent Peoples Movement, which is supported by the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], the Communist Party of Chile, the Socialist Party Allende faction, and other extreme leftist organizations.

Carabineros deployed a large number of officers to several points of the area where the demonstration was held. The public transportation service encountered some problems reaching the downtown area.

There is no information on arrests.

Eighteen Lautaro Movement Members Indicted

PY0512162690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Judge Alfredo Pfeiffer is investigating the Lautaro Group. He has indicted 18 members of this extremist movement who are charged with violating the State Security Law.

This information was disclosed by Interior Ministry Attorney Luis Toro who said that Pfeiffer had informed him about the legal proceedings. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Lacalle Terms Bush Visit 'Positive'

PY0612004290 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In a news conference at the Libertad Building, President Lacalle said the country has found a renewed role. The president said Uruguay will benefit a great deal if the common market and the Bush initiative are implemented. He deemed the U.S. President's visit positive and said President Bush was adequately welcomed in the country, aside from some incidents and (?unreal) acts that violated the people's rights.

Lacalle also said that, in an unprecedented act in Latin America, he will begin to [words indistinct] U.S. Congressmen the importance of President Bush's proposal.

Venezuela

Correction to Perez on Bush Visit, Other Issues

PA0412162190

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Discusses Visit, Initiative," published in the 4 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 71:

Column two, paragraph four, sentence one make read: ...particularly to Venezuela next week [as heard], the Venezuelan President.... (inserting editorial notation)